

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRETOR 04996 301459Z

43

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-07 NRC-05 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 MC-02 /026 W

----- 061802

R 301329Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3512

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 4996

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, SF

SUBJECT: PRE-LICENSE CHECK: COMPONENT TECHNOLOGY (PTY)

LTD., AKA COMTEK

REF: (A) STATE 228346 (B) JOHANNESBURG 1811

1. WE DO NOT FEEL QUALIFIED TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION IN THIS CASE.
A STRICT READING OF THE EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS WOULD SEEM TO
PRECLUDE ISSUANCE OF LICENSE AS SOME OF THESE DIODES ARE DESTINED FOR

THE SA DEFENSE FORCE FOR USE IN MAINTAINING AIRBOURNE RADAR,
WHICH WE PRESUME IS CONSIDERED MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ON OTHER
HAND, SOME RADAR IS DUAL USE OR PRIMARILY CIVILIAN WITH MILITARY
APPLICATIONS. IF RADAR IN QUESTION IS PRIMARILY CIVILIAN TYPE
WE PRESUME LICENSE COULD BE ISSUED.

2. COMTEK IS APPARENTLY BEING COMPLETELY OPEN WITH US AND WE
WOULD NOT WANT FIRM TO SUFFER BECAUSE OF ITS HONESTY. IF IDENTICAL
OR SIMILAR DIODES ARE READILY AVAILABLE FROM OTHER SOURCES,
REFUSAL OF LICENSE WOULD PRESUMABLY DO NOTHING TO HAMPER ABILITY
OF SA DEFENSE FORCE TO MAINTAIN ITS EQUIPMENT AND ORDER WOULD
SIMPLY BE PLACED ELSEWHERE, TO DETRIMENT OF US EXPORTS AND OF
COMTEK. DIODES WOULD PRESUMABLY BE INVISIBLE ONCE INSTALLED IN
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DEFENSE FORCE EQUIPMENT.

3. BELIEVE DECISION SHOULD REST ON CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DIODES.
IF THEY ARE COMMON, READILY AVAILABLE ITEMS USED EXTENSIVELY IN
CIVILIAN APPLICATION WE SEE NO POINT IN REFUSING THE LICENSE.
IF THEY ARE STATE-OF-THE-ART COMPONENTS (WE NOTICE THEY COST \$48 EACH
)
WITH APPLICATION MAINLY TO MILITARY RADAR THEN LICENSE WHOULD
PROBABLY BE REFUSED. WE DOUBT THAT WE SHOULD ASK FOR GUARANTEES
THAT THEY WILL NOT BE SOLD TO THE DEFENSE FORCE BECAUSE IT WOULD
PROBABLY BE IMPRACTICAL TO ATTEMPT TO CHECK THE ULTIMATE USERS OF
SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF SMALL COMPONENTS.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRETOR04996
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750450-0179
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975124/aaaaadin.tel
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Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRE-LICENSE CHECK: COMPONENT TECHNOLOGY (PTY) LTD., AKA COMTEK
TAGS: ESTC, SF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006